OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, JULIA M. MEJIA, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND WEBER

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE SUCCESSLINK YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The City of Boston provides youth and young adult job opportunities throughout the year for thousands of Boston youth and young adults ages 14 through 24 through multiple City-run programs, including SuccessLink, futureBOS, Youth Options Unlimited (YOU Boston), and other programs managed by the Office of Youth Employment and Advancement and the Office of Workforce Development in coordination with Boston Public Schools and other City departments; *and*

WHEREAS, The SuccessLink Youth Employment Program connects employers with the City's youth to provide meaningful afterschool employment experience, which serve as a building block for personal and professional success; *and*

WHEREAS, The SuccessLink Youth Employment Program connected over 1,700 students with school year jobs in the 2025-26 year, fully subsidized by the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Youth jobs provide the next generation of workers with hands-on experience, professional skills, exposure to different career opportunities, and a steady paycheck, all while bolstering Boston's economic development; *and*

WHEREAS, Research, including from Northeastern University's Alicia Modestino, shows that the City of Boston's youth job programs lead to a reduction in both violent and property crime, along with improved high school graduation rates; *and*

WHEREAS, Facing an incredibly challenging fiscal environment, the Boston City Council voted to approve a FY27 Operating Budget that contained a large cut to the afterschool portion of the SuccessLink Youth Employment Program; *and*

WHEREAS, The Council and the people of Boston were told in the summer of 2026 that a new public-private coalition had come together to fund 2,000 year-round school-year "learn-and-earn" job opportunities for Boston's youth; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent communication from the Administration stated that the SuccessLink Program has been discontinued and replaced by the Boston City Youth Corps — also known as the Red Shirts program — without a traditional announcement or public comment process; *and*

WHEREAS, Current students were building relationships with now-former SuccessLink Employer Partners to grow professional skills and inform their future career paths, but will now no longer have the opportunity to continue doing so; *and*

WHEREAS, Some non-profit organizations who were formerly SuccessLink Employer Partners were neither informed of the changes being made to the program nor given the opportunity to be awarded a spot in the new Boston City Youth Corps pilot program until numerous other partners had been selected; *and*

WHEREAS, The aforementioned non-profit organizations relied on the funding they received from the SuccessLink program each year and were not given adequate notice of its replacement, nor an equal opportunity to join the new pilot program, leaving many in a dangerous fiscal situation; *and*

WHEREAS, These non-profit organizations deserve support as stalwart partners in the effort to provide year-round afterschool job opportunities to Boston's youth who had relied on the continued existence and success of the SuccessLink Youth Employment Program; *and*

WHEREAS, Only 400 positions for young people will be available through the the Boston City Youth Corps, far below the stated goal of 2,000 school-year jobs, and even farther below the demonstrated need; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Youth Corps should be available to as many young people as possible, to make progress towards every youth from ages 14 to 18 in the City of Boston who wants to participate in an afterschool jobs program able to do so; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the current status of the SuccessLink Youth Employment Program and its replacement, the Boston City Youth Corps, as well as opportunities to support and find additional funding for SuccessLink Employer Partners.

Filed on: October 16, 2026